



Suffolk County Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services Commission
PO Box 127 – Yaphank, NY 11980
(631) 852-4851

FINAL
MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011 MEETING

Chairman A. LaFerrera unable to attend; Vice Chairman Egan opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m., followed by the Salute to the Flag and a moment of silence for sick and departed members.

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 22, 2011 meeting were accepted by a motion from E. Tully and seconded by R. Keller. The motion carried.

Correspondence: T. Portoghese

Correspondence received since last meeting:

- All Department Heads Memo from County Executive regarding Mileage Rate Reimbursement Effective July 1, 2011: reimbursement rate is 55.5 cents per mile for the use of your **personal vehicle** to conduct County business.
- Letter from Brookhaven Fire District regarding the Long Island Compost/Great Gardens Fire of July 2010
- Response from Commissioner Joe Williams regarding LI Compost Fire.

No correspondence sent since last meeting.

List of courses offered are on the last page of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: C. Del Vecchio

The opening balance (for August) was \$4242.29. There was a deposit of \$400, leaving a closing balance of \$4642.29; with no activity in September, the balance remains at \$4642.29. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. All in favor and no one opposing, the motion was carried.

Report of Officers: J. Egan

There is a big push for the LICA joint purchasing between counties for firefighting gear, EMS, fire departments/districts and the Police Department.

Commissioner's Report: J. Williams

- There were many FDs and VACs that responded to the compost fire in July 2010. Since the fire, the Brookhaven Fire District some research and discovered that there was a study done and some radioactivity was found in the compost. This information was not disseminated to the fire district as it was thought to be insignificant. Now they are concerned about long-term effects of the exposure to this radioactivity. Commissioner of Health asked to pass along this info: if you are fighting a smoky fire, wear protective gear. If radioactive material is found at any site, FRES must be notified and FRES will pass on this information. Regarding this particular fire, there will be a yearly physical, just like the WTC physical.
- Thanks to all agencies for all the work done and help given during Hurricane Irene. Also thanks to all the fire departments that went to upstate New York to help out.
- Every department has been hit hard with budget cuts. The recommended budget goes to Legislature; if budget is approved, we stand to lose three (3) positions and almost a million dollars out of our budget. My main issue is the three (3) jobs. No commissioners had anything to do with choosing which positions went on the layoff list.

Deputy Commissioner's Report: J. Searing

Thanks for the support lent to other parts of the state where there was tremendous flooding. Several departments were deployed. Reimbursement is available through FEMA.

Fire Marshal's Report: E. Springer

- Regarding Fire Extinguishing Licensing Board (FELB): we have approximately 50 certified shops and 125 licensed technicians at this time. We are starting to enforce the law; there have been three (3) field appearance tickets issued.
- The Fire Marshals completed a course on vehicle fires given through the National Insurance Crime Bureau.
- We will have a number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facilities for commercial use. They will be privately run but on County property.
- We activated the USAR Team for the LIMA drill; but they stood down.
- We are purchasing swift water rescue gear for the USAR team.
- McDonald's pamphlets are here and there are 750 per department for whoever wants them.

Fire Academy: D. Stockinger

- Medal of Valor went well; we had close to 200 attendees. Mastic did a great job as hosts.
- Saturday, October 1 at 10:00 am is FF1 graduation at the Fire Academy. FF! National Certification exam will start October 22th. New forms and applications have been developed. Need to submit application and payment the first day of hands-on training.
- Received word from the State Education Department that we would not be receiving our last State Aid payment (\$130,500) for this year. VEEB has decided not to pursue lawsuit any further.
- Budget hearings for 2012 Operating Budget are on October 19th. The County Executive Recommended Budget is 5% (\$107,500) reduction. State Aid was reduced \$181,590.

We have not yet made the decision whether or not we will charge for pump tests and SCUBA training.

- Fire houses scheduling to be done in advance similar to Field Training. We will have three (3) informational meetings, October 6 at Riverhead FD, October 7 at the Fire Academy and October 13 at North Babylon FD. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.
- National Fire Academy 10-day class (Chemistry for the Emergency Responder" will be held at the Academy March 19th through March 30, 2012. Use 75-5 form to register.
- There will be a USAR drill on Fire Island October 8th and 9th and we are developing several scenarios. The USAR team will be drilling in West Virginia October 31 through November 4, 2012.

SCPD – Special Patrol Bureau: Capt. J. Blosser

Discussed programming frequencies in helicopters. Narrow banding issue – looks like we are in pretty good shape; there are no problems with the two new helicopters and the two older ones will probably be OK. Aviation-wise we had a good summer. We have a capital project to replace a helicopter – we will probably not be getting it soon due to the financial state of the county. R. Vella motioned and J. Carney seconded to send a letter to legislators not to remove the co-pilot from helicopters.

EMS: T. Lateulere

- The EMS Division would like to thank the Fire and EMS agencies and the Fire Coordinators from the first (1st) and third (3rd) Divisions on assisting with the evacuation of two (2) hospitals in preparation of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene.
- The EMS Division would also like to thank the Fire and EMS agencies as well as the Fire Coordinators that assisted with medical aspects of the recent drill at LI MacArthur Airport.
- The EMS Division would like to encourage agencies to have their members take advantage of our EMS courses that are currently posted on the Suffolk REMSCO (www.suffolkremSCO.com) website. The Division would also like to inform all agencies that if the proposed 2012 budget goes into effect, the EMS Division will be facing layoffs of three (3) full time staff members and also a reduction in our budget line. The cuts will decrease the amount of traditional courses that the Division can offer. In addition, the EMS Division may have to restructure the affiliate agreement that it currently has with the ninety (90) Fire/EMS agencies in Suffolk County. The Division would probably need to decrease the training classes by 50% and may have to eliminate the clerical and administrative support it currently offers.
- The EMS Division would like to announce that Dr. Dennis Russo has taken over the responsibilities of being the Medical Director for the Emergency Medical Services program. The Division would like to congratulate Dr. Linda Mermelstein on her new position overseeing the implementation of an Electronic Medical Records platform in the County Health Center network.
- The Division would like to thank Dr. Mermelstein for her tireless work and dedication to the Suffolk County EMS System.

Budget Committee: R. Vella

This is the hardest we have been hit in a long time. Looking to do away with three positions; one position is fully grant funded. We need organizations to send letters to the Legislature

asking for no positions to be cut. October 19th at 9:30 is the meeting. November 9th is the vote. N. Reilly motioned, Ed Tully seconded (Rich Vella will write) letter to Levy regarding position cuts. October 6th is the regular Public Safety meeting.

Arson Task Force: R. Keller

No report; no meeting and at this time I will be resigning from FRES Commission; Tim Crafts (alternate) will be attending meetings from now on.

Combined Radio Committee: N. Reilly, Jr.

Meeting was scheduled for Sept. 14; there were only 3 other people besides Greg, Norm and Myles. A lot of rhetoric about not having meetings, but when there was a meeting, no one showed up. Another meeting will be held December 14th.

G. Miniutti: our real focus from now to the end of the year will be narrow-banding. We have to coordinate. There will be a meeting on November 2nd at 9:00 at the Dennison Building. There will be representatives from Motorola to answer any questions. Pagers may not be able to be narrow-banded and this may be an important issue for departments. EMS has a grant-funded program to replace ambulance radios as county radios do not have the capability to be narrow-banded.

Buildings & Grounds: Absent

Legislation & Standards: E. Tully

Seat belt requirement is waiting for the Governor's signature. There are 9 bills that are waiting to go to the Governor's desk. The Governor vetoed the Haz Mat bill. I'm going to Albany this weekend and I will get more info on the federal bill for low-sap. The rope law is still in the Labor Department, which is the wrong department.

Codes & Prevention: V. Bologna

There is a freeze on hiring (specifically FMs).

EMS & REMSCO:

There is going to be a paramedic program starting in 2012 in SCCC. It will be SERVES eligible.

Burn Center: F. Thornhill

Our fundraisers did not make money like in previous years.

Recruitment & Retention: Absent

Question asked: Is any money touched by budget cuts? Response: No, it's all grant.

Old Business:

With relation to SERVES and the possibility of students having to pay back funds – are fire reports doing any better? Commissioner couldn't answer as there have been no responses to his email queries about the fire reports.

New Business:

- D. Carrigan motioned that all those absent from last meeting be excused. R. Keller seconded. All in favor; motion carried.
- Motion by D. Carrigan and seconded by C. Del Vecchio to hold November/December combined meeting on Wednesday, December 7th.
- Motion by F. Thornhill to buy shirts for new members, seconded by E. Tully, motion carried.
- Discussion ensued about EOC and participation with Hurricane Irene.

Public Comment:

Over 700 jobs are on the chopping block. Need to sit down and talk to individual legislators about budget. Not enough money in county to take care of all mandates.

How many grant writers (grant funded positions) are there in the county and how many are to be cut? Don't know; will have to get answer.

Discussion ensued regarding grant funded positions and how much are we in jeopardy of losing or having to give back.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting by C. Del Vecchio and seconded by D. Keller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Members Present	Members Excused	Staff Present	Guests Present
S. Thebold	D. Silverman	J. Williams	C. Duffy
V. Bologna	A. LaFerrera	J. Searing	Capt. John Blosser
C. Del Vecchio	K. Capon	E. Springer	R. Knight
N. Luparella	P. Garypie	R. Stockinger	T. Lateulere
C. Bancroft	R. Sorrentino	G. Miniutti	
R. Keller			
R. Vella			
D. Carrigan			
E. Tully			
N. Reilly			
F. Thornhill			
J. Egan			
J. Carney			
B. Prosek			
Alternates Present			
T. Crafts – Smithtown Town Fire Chiefs' Council			

NEXT MEETING	Wednesday, October 26, 2011
TIME	8:00 pm
LOCATION	SC Dept. FRES Library, Yaphank
REFRESHMENTS	Ed Tully and Pete Garypie

LIST OF COURSES OFFERED

Course	Location	Dates	Days / Time
EMT-Basic Refresher	East Moriches Ambulance	9/6-11/17	Tues&Thurs 7pm-10/11pm
EMT Critical Care Original	SC EMS Academy	9/11/11-8/16/12	Sundays 8am – 2:30pm
EMT Critical Care Original	SC EMS Academy	9/12/11-8/16/12	Mons & Weds 6:30-9:30pm
EMT Basic Original	Sag Harbor Ambulance	9/15/11-3/15/12	Tues & Thurs 7 – 10/11pm
EMT Basic Original	Southold FD	9/19/11-3/15/12	Mons & Weds 7 – 10/11pm
EMT Basic Original	East Brentwood FD	9/20/11-3/15/12	Tues & Thurs 7 – 10/11pm
EMT Basic Refresher	Hampton Bays Ambulance	10/2-11/17/11	Suns 8am – 2pm&Weds6-9
EMT Basic Original	East Islip FD	10/30/11-5/17/12	Sundays 8:30am – 3pm
EMT Basic Original	East Northport FD	11/2/11-5/17/12	Mons & Weds 7 – 10pm
EMT Basic Refresher	Sag Harbor Ambulance	12/11/11-3/15/12	Sundays 9am – 4pm